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(54) **SOUND-PROOFING HOUSING FOR A RESPIRATOR**

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Primary Examiner — (Jackie) Tan-Uyen T Ho

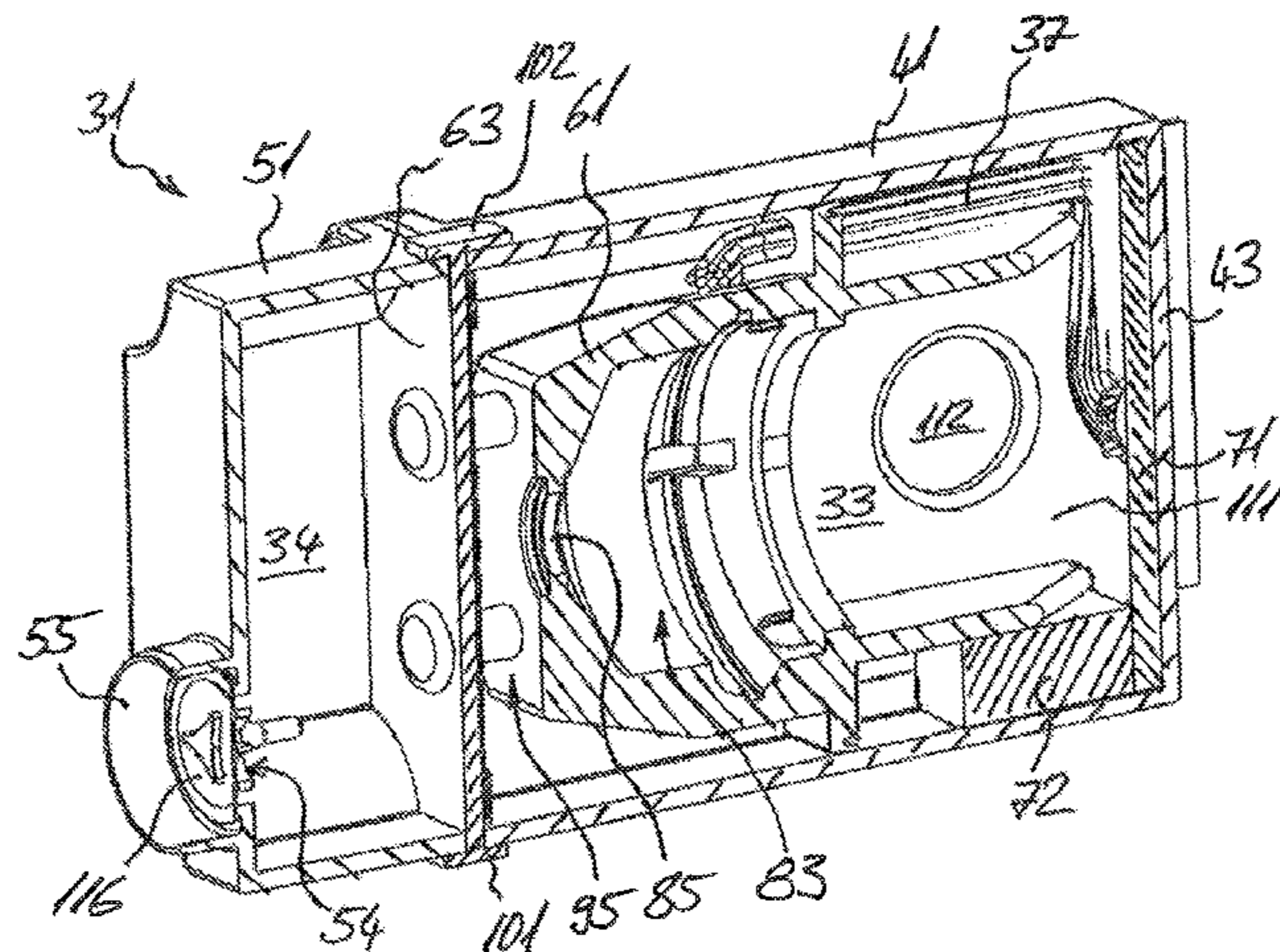
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Sound-proofing housing (31), which comprises a first housing part (41) having an intake opening (44) and comprises a second housing part (51) having a discharge opening, wherein a shaped part (61) arranged in the housing (31) is also provided, of which the flange seal (63) comes to rest between the housing parts (41, 51) when the housing (31) is put together. The acoustic emission generated by the fan is

(Continued)



considerably reduced by a specific embodiment of the shaped part (61) with air passage openings and air-guiding devices.

34 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

(58) Field of Classification Search

USPC 128/204.18, 204.21
See application file for complete search history.

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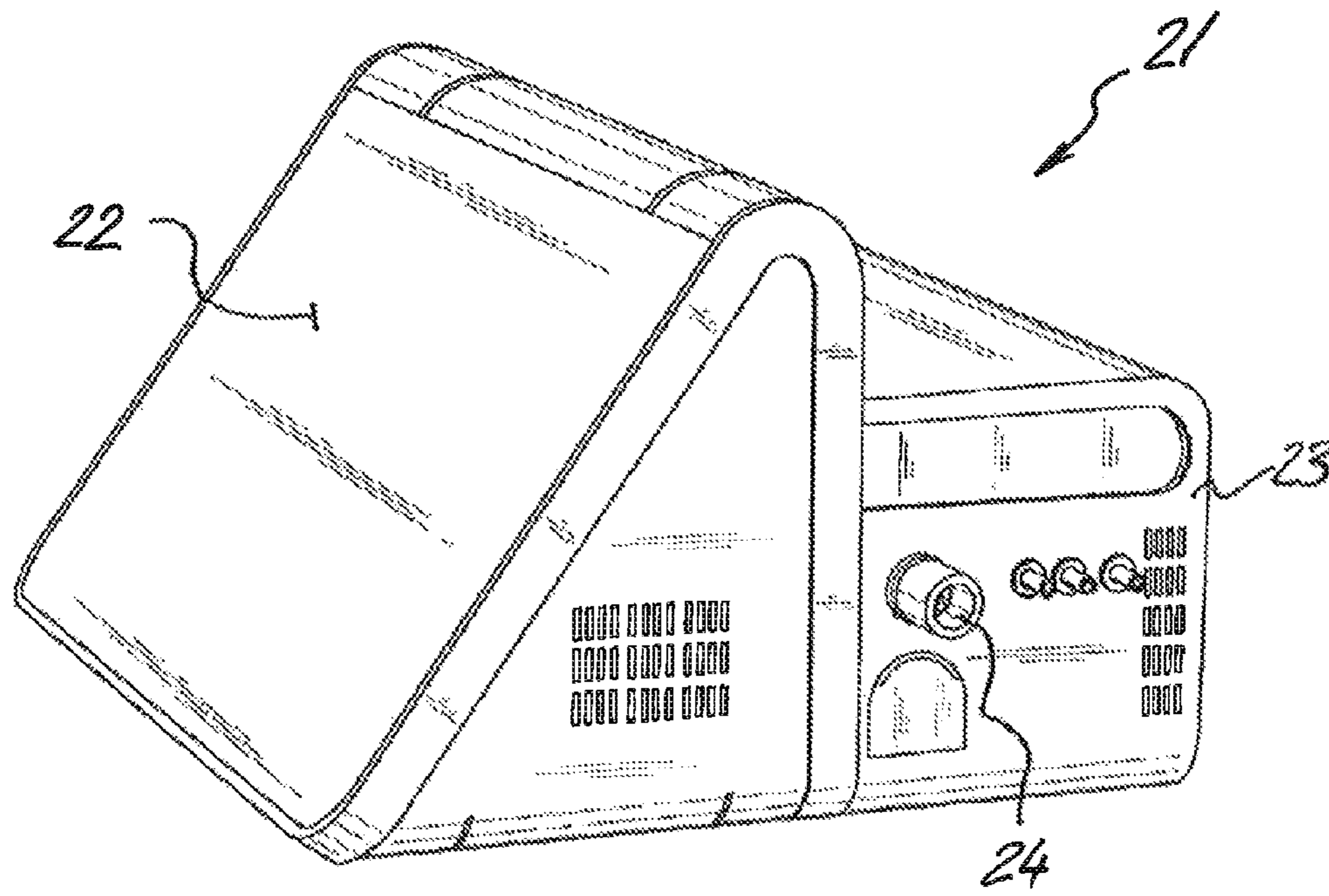


FIG 1

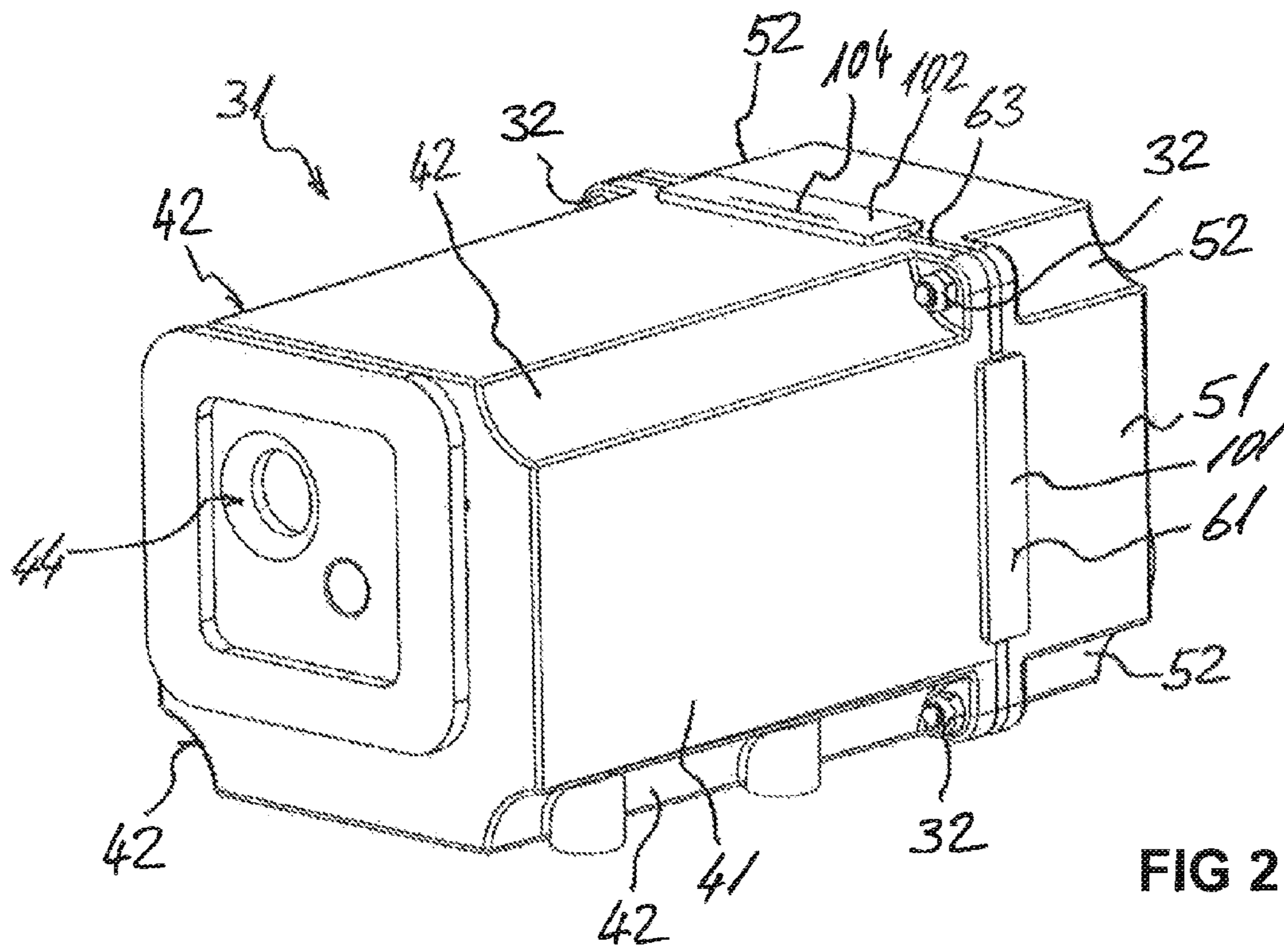


FIG 2

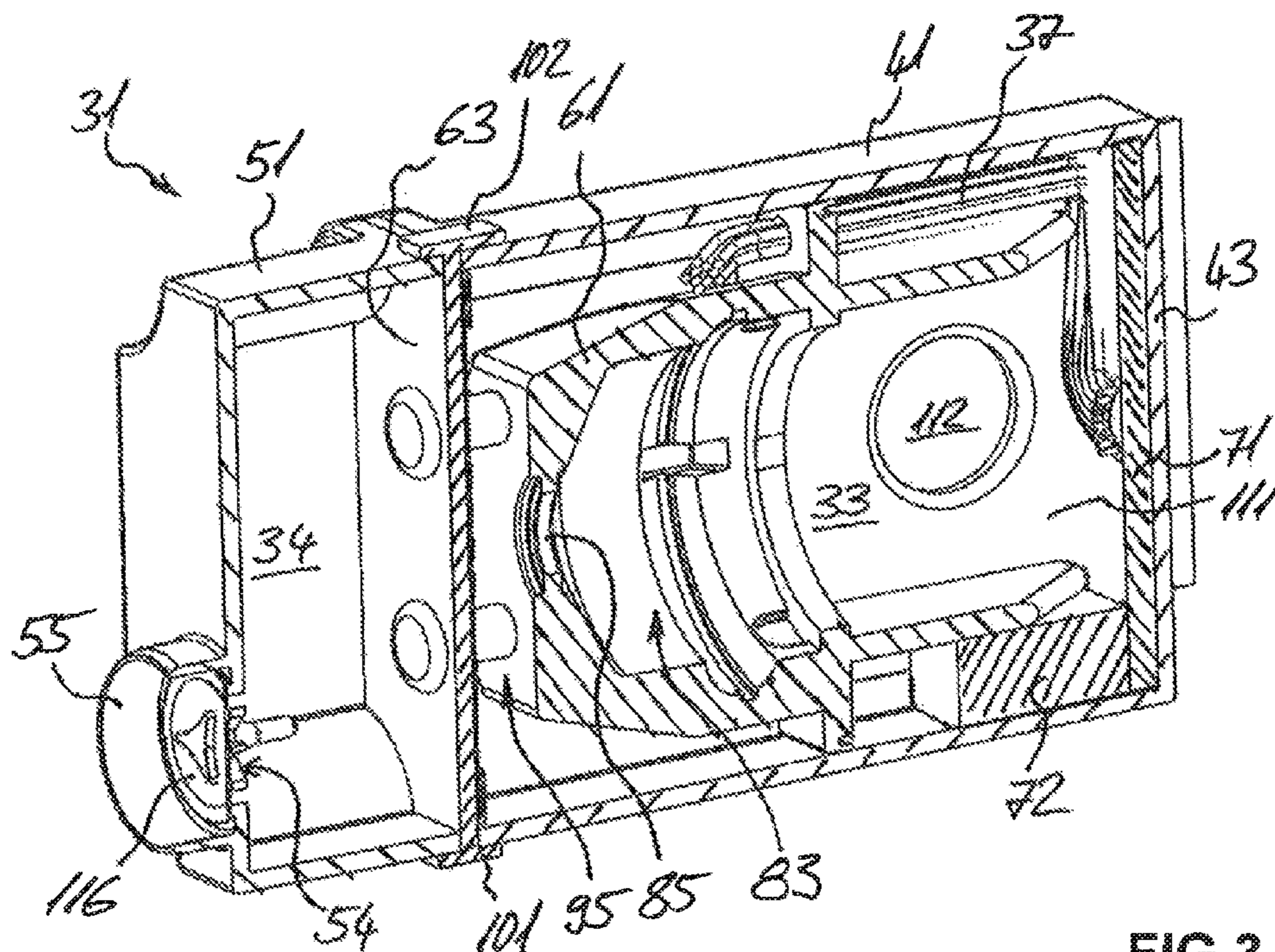


FIG 3

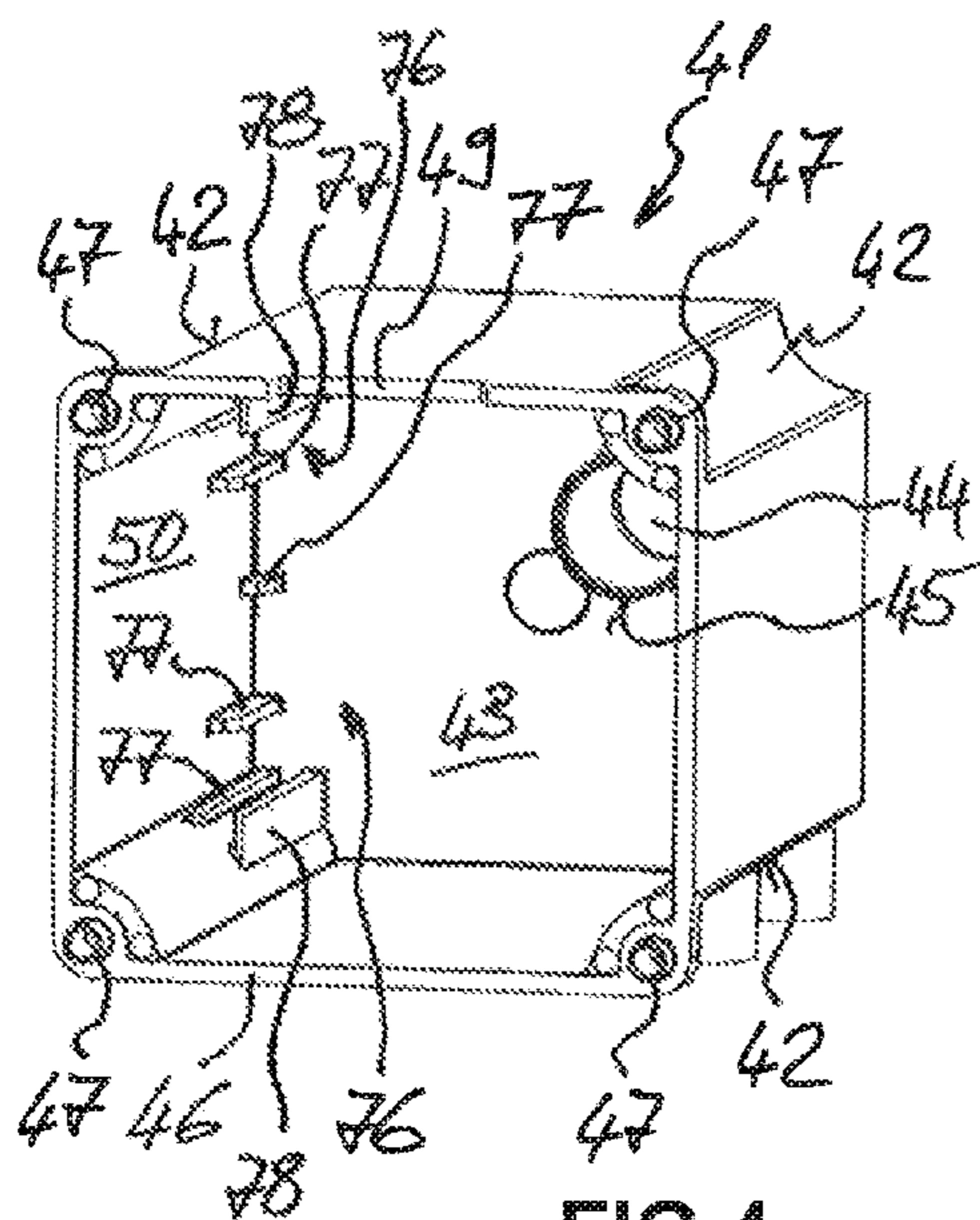


FIG 4

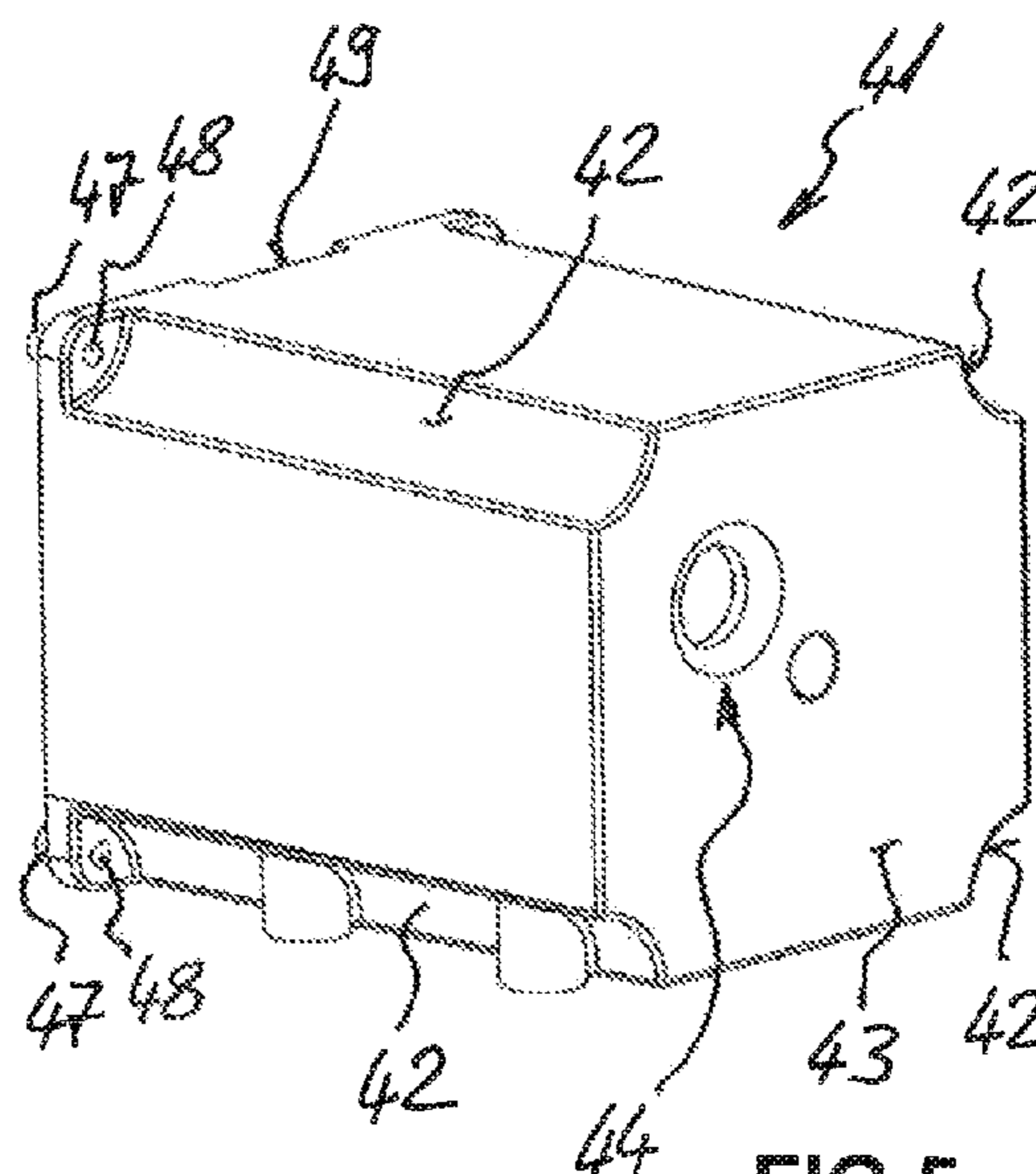


FIG 5

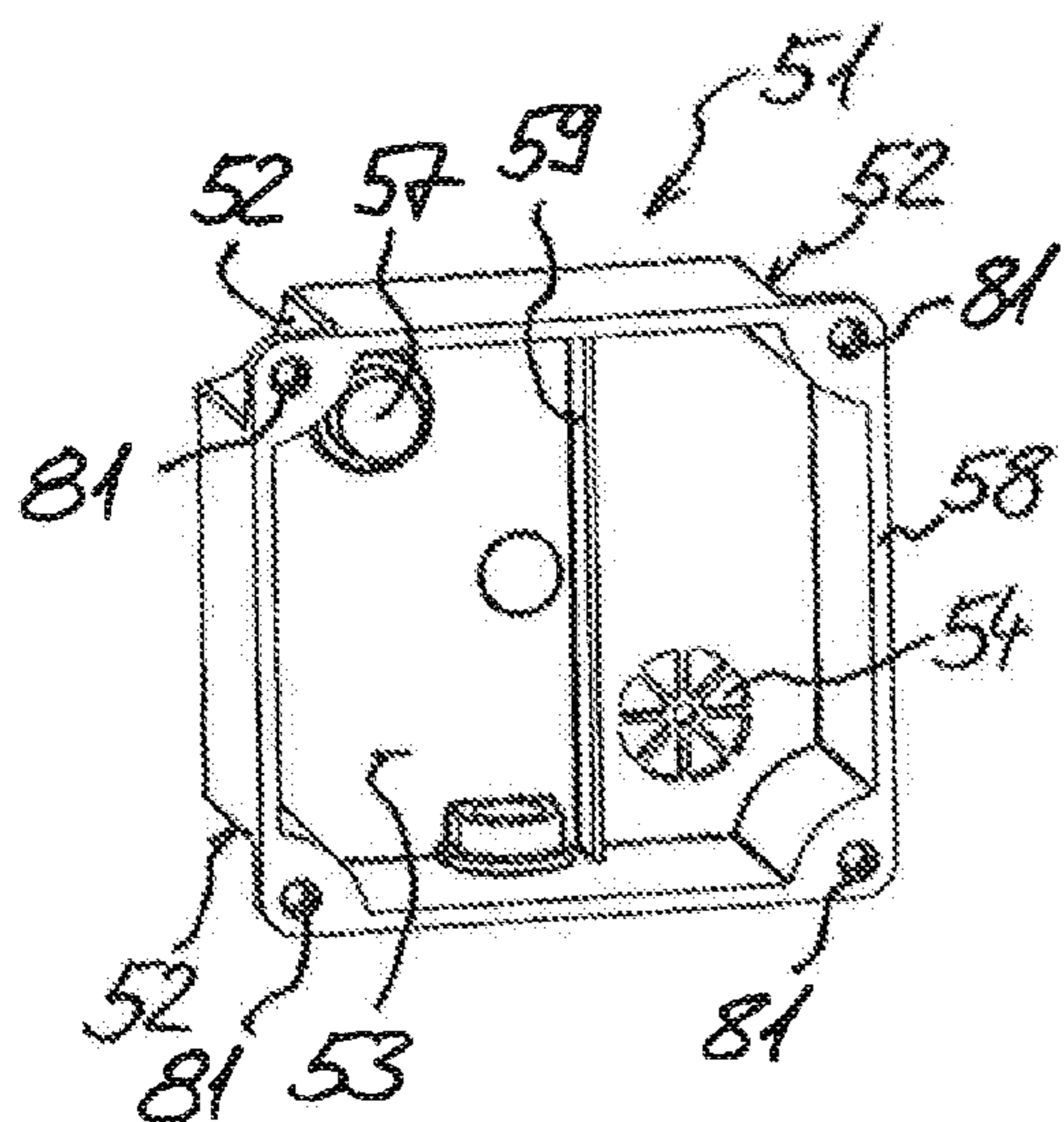


FIG 6

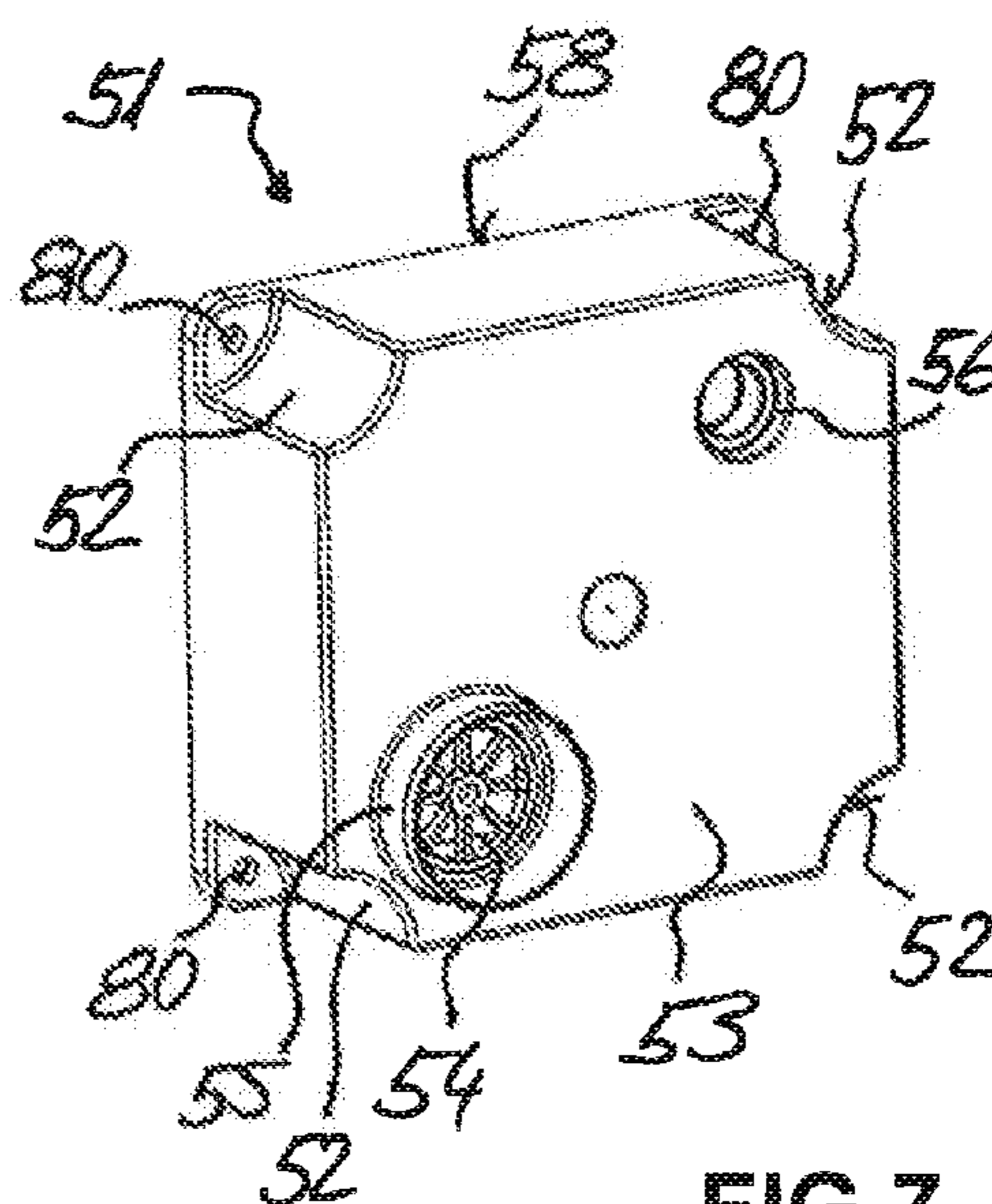


FIG 7

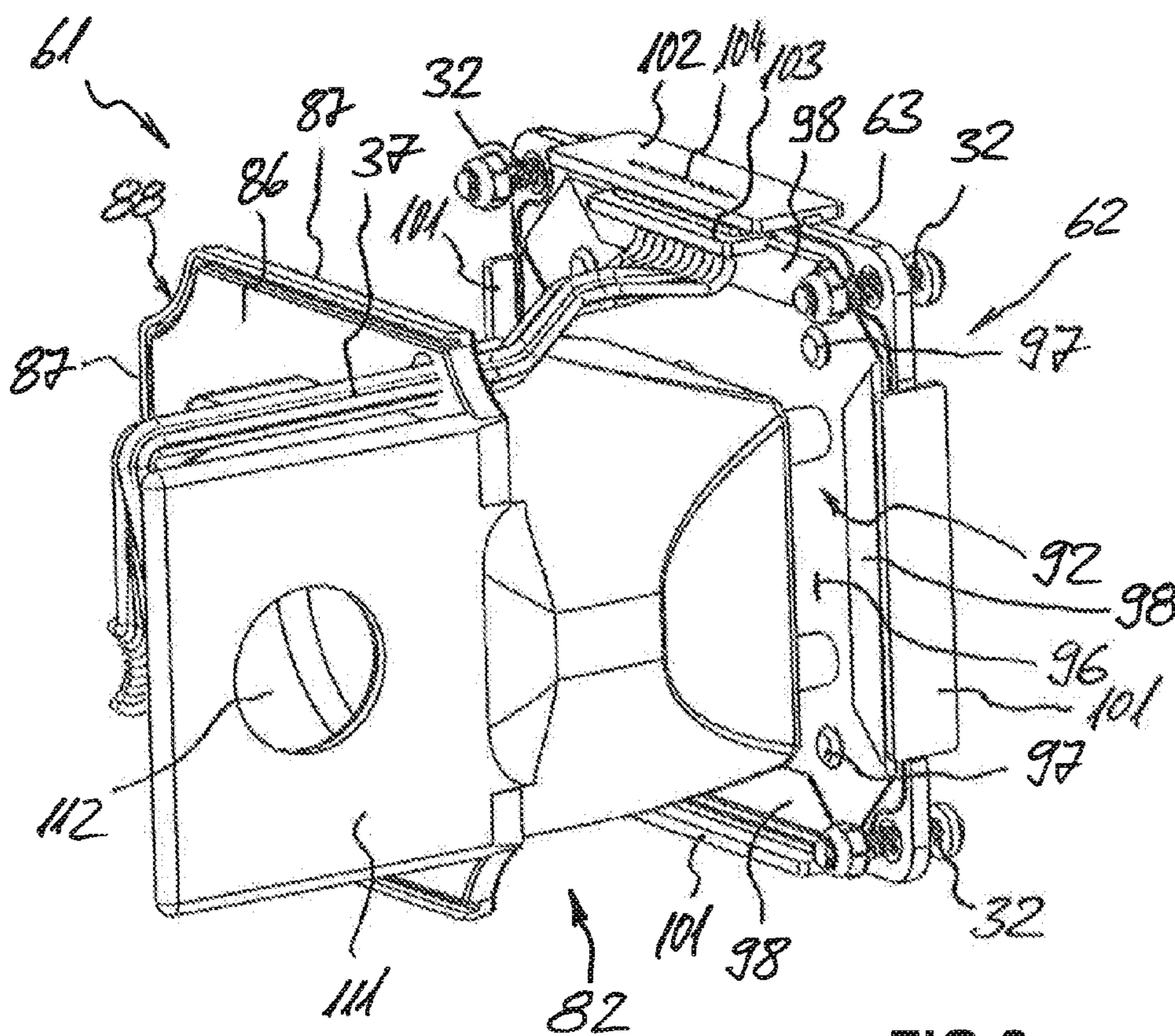


FIG 8

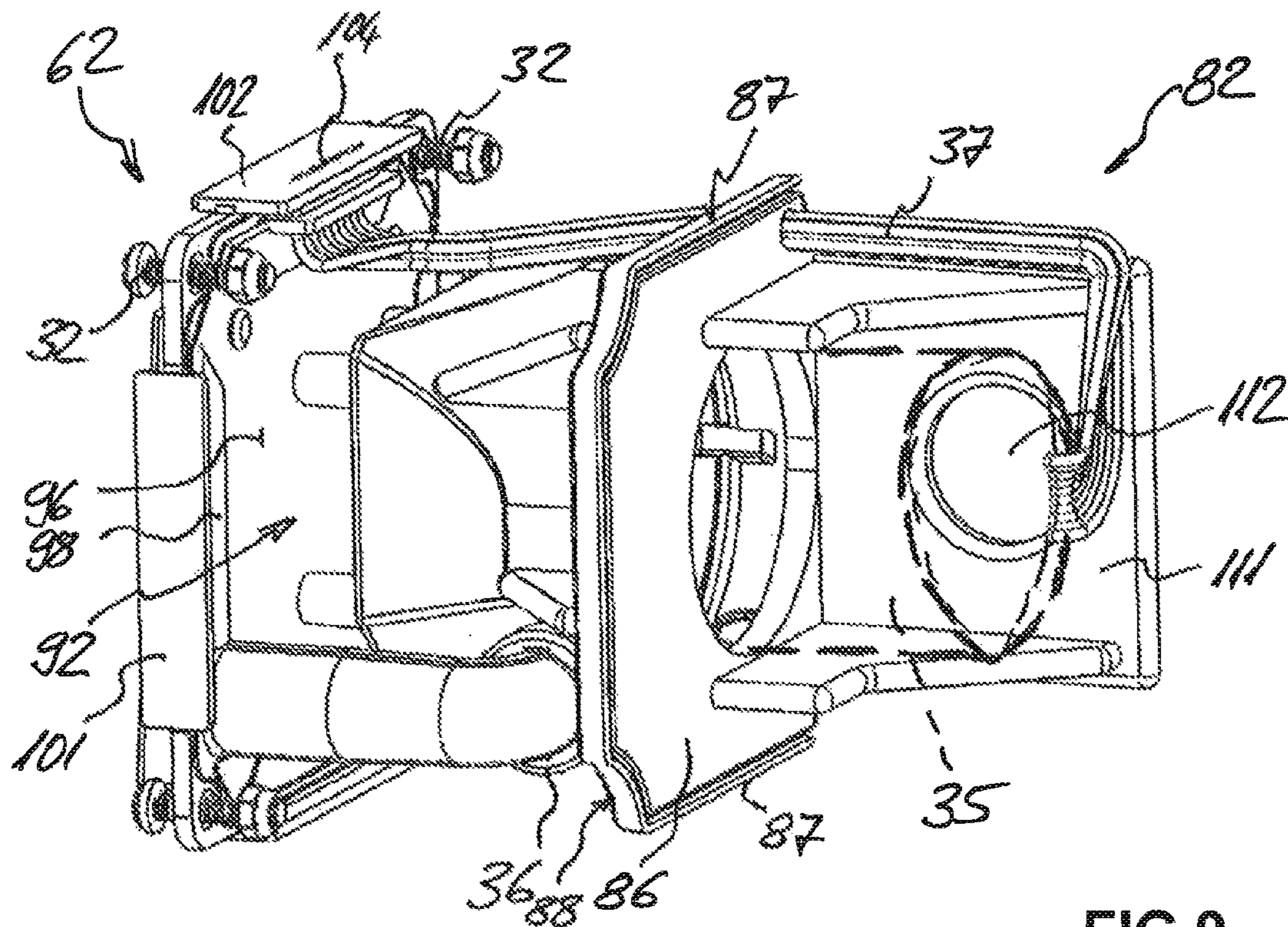


FIG 9

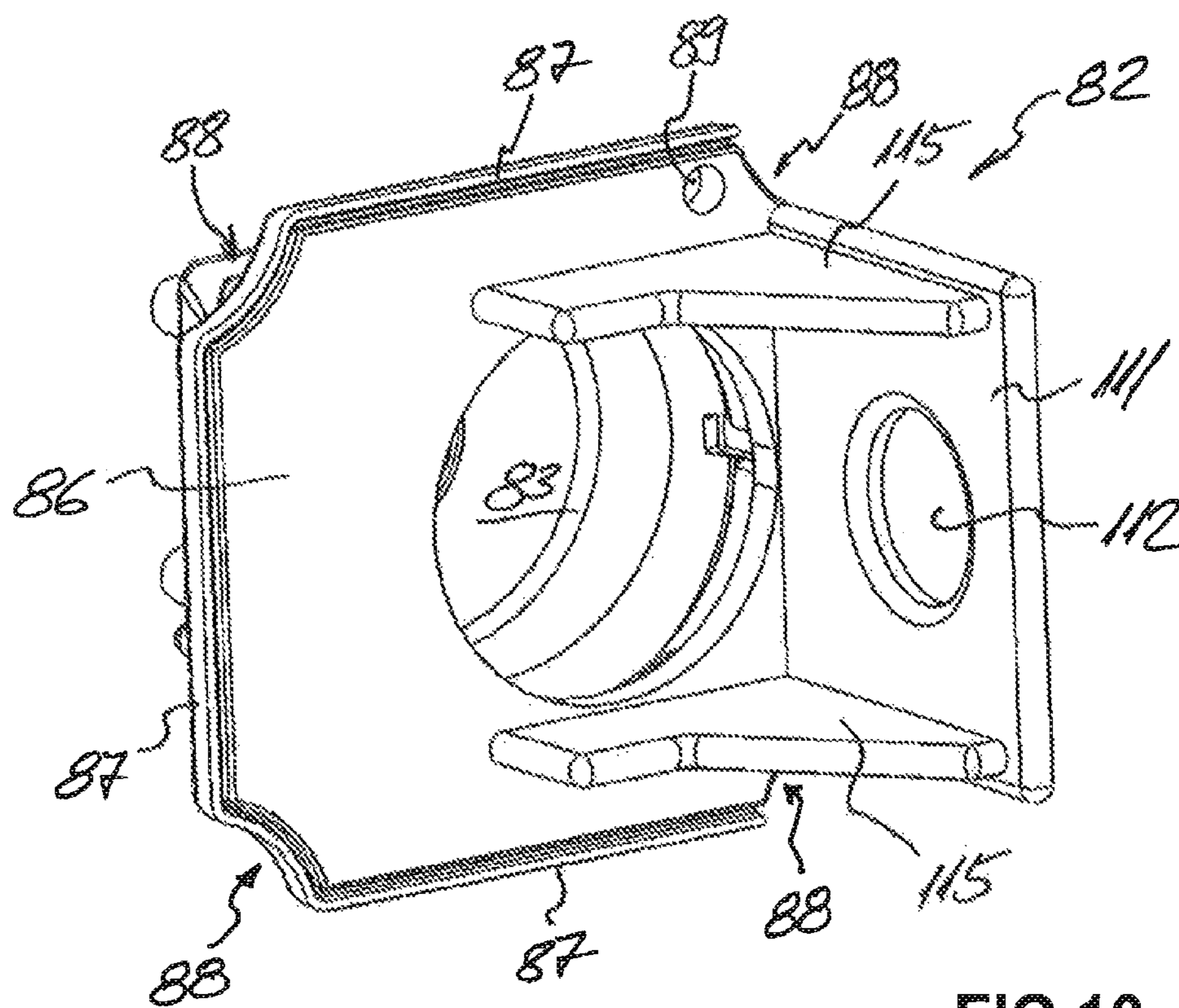


FIG 10

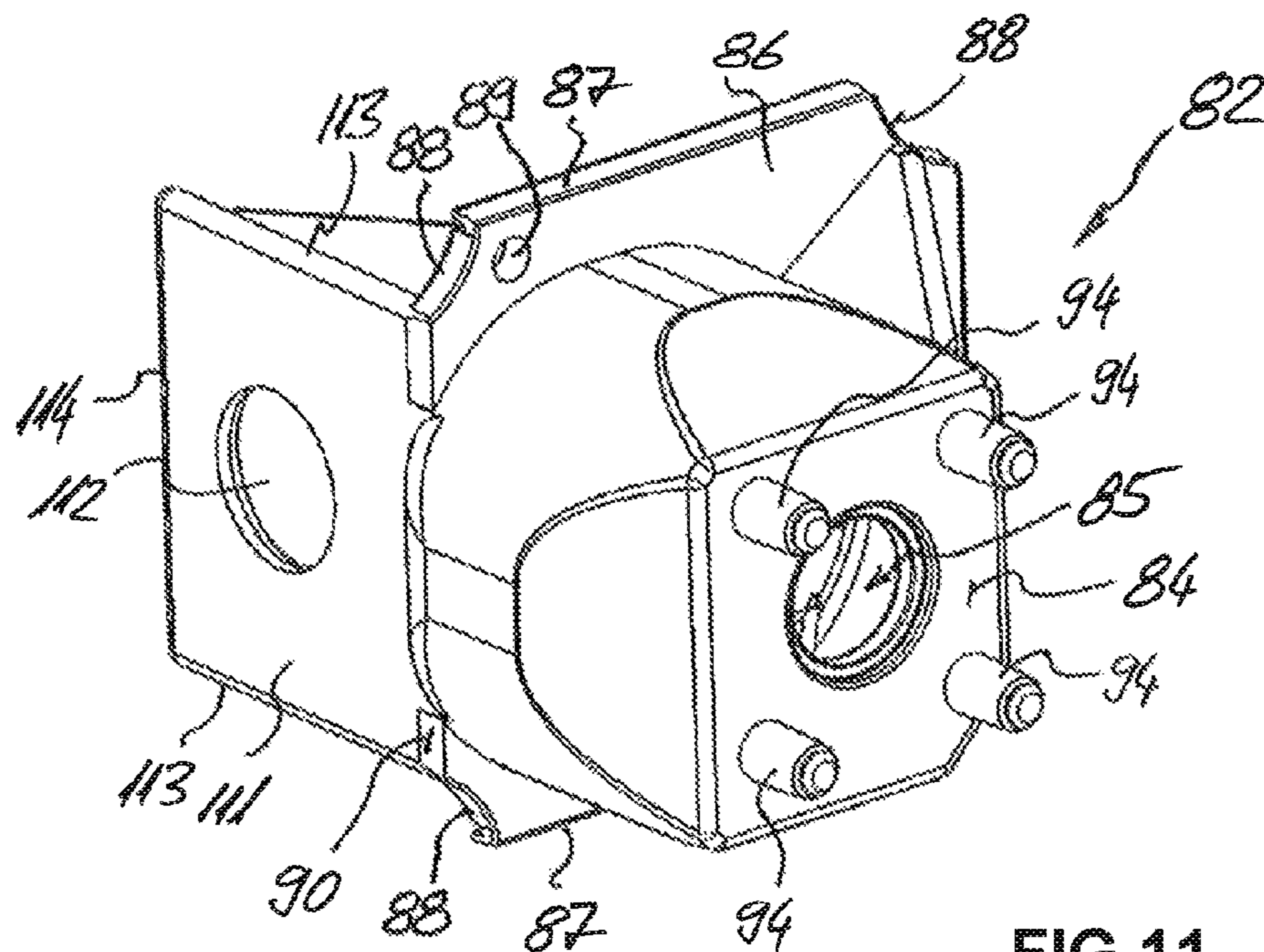


FIG 11

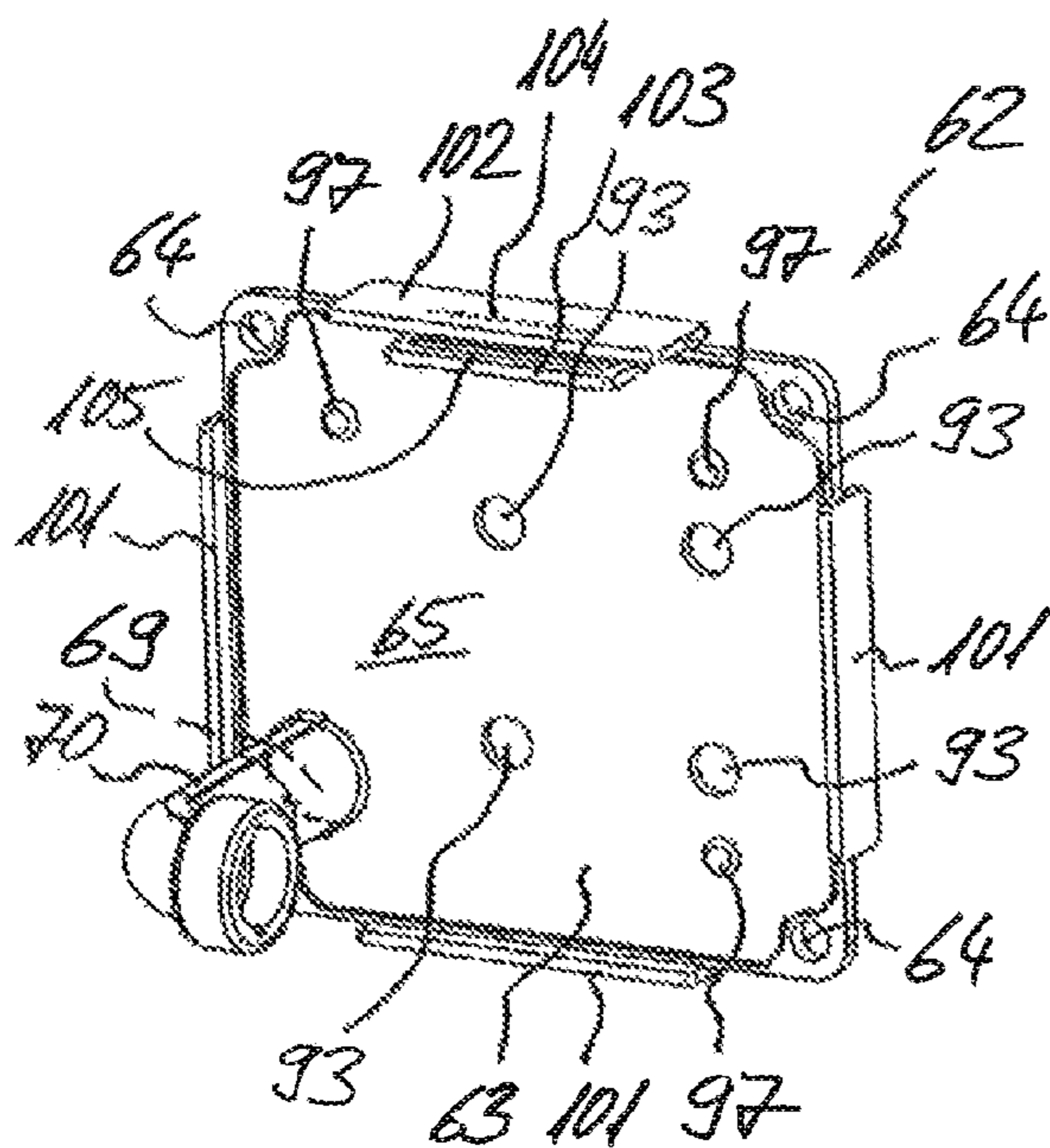


FIG 12

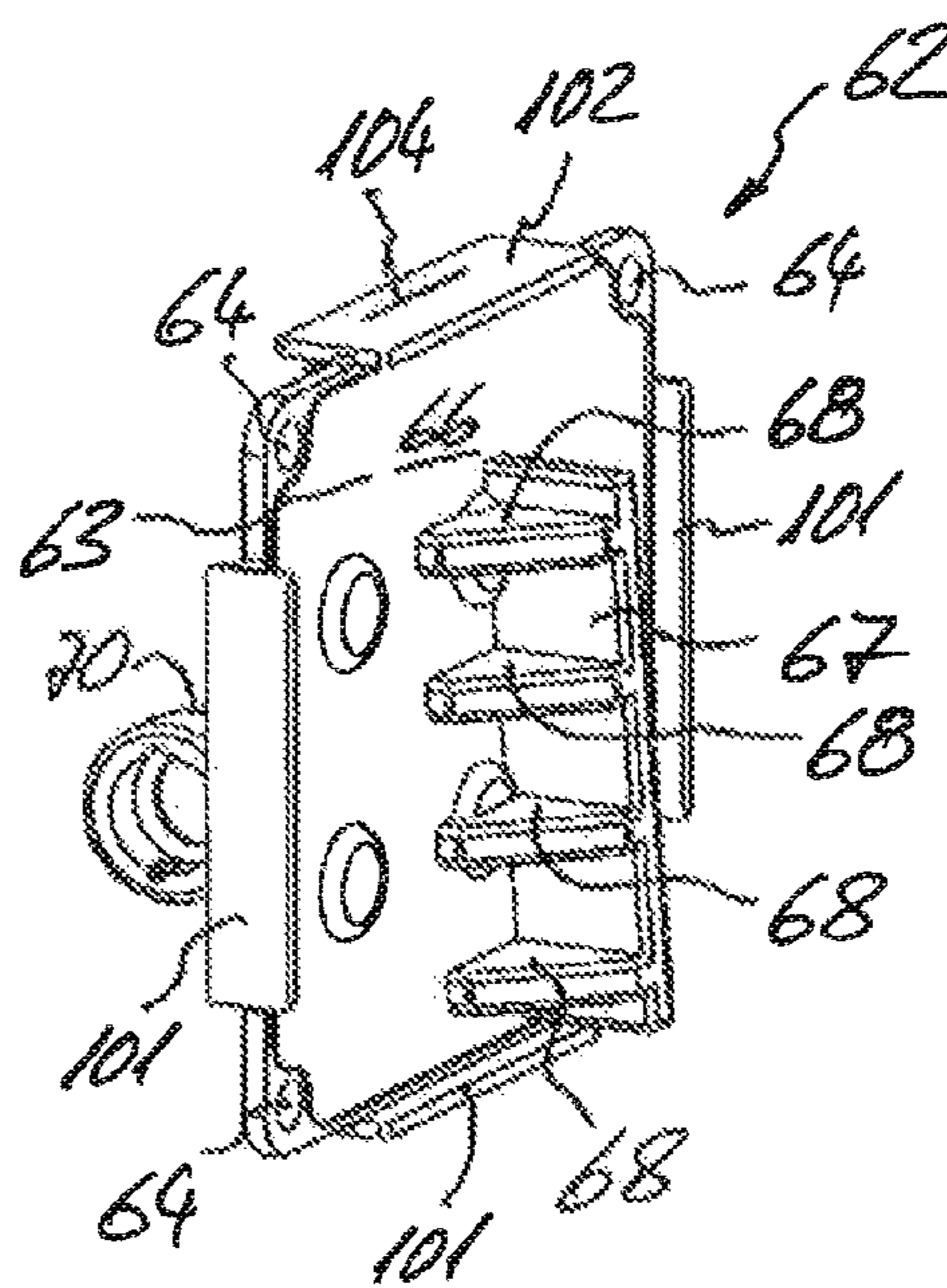


FIG 13

SOUND-PROOFING HOUSING FOR A RESPIRATOR

This application is a 35 U.S.C. 371 national-phase entry of PCT International application no. PCT/IB2013/050930 filed on Feb. 4, 2013 and also claims benefit of priority to prior European application no. EP12153645 filed on Feb. 2, 2012, and also claims priority as a non-provisional of U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 61/594,345 filed on Feb. 2, 2012, and both European application no. EP12153645 and U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 61/594,345, as well as parent PCT International application no. PCT/IB2013/050930, are all incorporated herein by reference in their entirety for all intents and purposes, all as if identically set forth in full herein.

The invention relates to a sound-proofing for a respirator. The invention further relates to a respirator comprising such a sound-proofing housing.

A respirator is used to assist a patient when breathing or to take over fully the breathing function. To this end, a fan, which draws in air in an accordingly controlled manner, compresses said air and then provides the compressed air to the patient at a correspondingly high pressure, is normally provided in the respirator. The delivery opening of the respirator is connected via a feed line to a respiratory mask for example, which is fitted on the patient.

The fan, also referred to as an air generator, for example comprises a motor, for example an electric motor, and a compressor driven by the motor, for example an impeller or a turbine. Noise is generated during operation of the fan, both by the fan itself and also by the airflow, and is bothersome for the patient and also for the carers, in particular in the event of a long period of use of the respirator.

There was thus a need to reduce the noise level, in particular in the case of respirators, during operation thereof.

For a ventilation, heating or air-conditioning system of a motor vehicle, it is proposed for example in DE19746185A1, which is foreign to the classification in question, to provide a separate holder for the fan motor, wherein resiliently yielding support elements directly supporting the motor are provided to decouple vibrations between the motor and the holder.

With this known solution, vibrations generated directly by the fan motor are indeed damped, but the noise level during operation of the ventilation, heating or air-conditioning system only falls to an inconsiderable extent. Since, during operation of a motor vehicle, further loud noises are produced, the reduction in acoustic emission of the ventilation, heating or air-conditioning system achieved by this solution is sufficient for this purpose. The reduction in acoustic emission achievable by this solution is insufficient for a respirator.

WO2009/067583A2 shows a modular powered air purifying respirator comprising a housing having an upper body which has an inlet for the entry of air into the housing. Said air being drawn in by a fan arranged in the housing. The housing has also a lower body which has an outlet for the discharge of the drawn-in air from the housing. Furthermore said housing also comprises a lower body cover arranged in the housing which forms an enclosed space to create a sealed breathing zone that is in fluid communication with the inlet and the outlet. A holder for the motor of the fan is positioned within the sealed breathing zone. This holder encircles the fan, has a fan receptacle and is located between the fan and the lower body. The fan receptacle protrudes from the

delivery side facing the delivery region. Air-guiding devices for guiding the air drawn-in by the fan are provided within the housing.

This known solution has comparable disadvantages as pointed out in respect to DE19746185A1, mainly still loud noise. In the normal use of such an air purifying respirator (shown in the FIGS. 9 and 10 of WO2009/067583A2) the reduction in acoustic emission of the air purifying respirator achieved by this solution is sufficient for this purpose. The reduction in acoustic emission achievable by this solution is insufficient for a respirator which is used in hospital or by a patient.

It is proposed in DE20213232U1 to provide a sound-proofing housing for receiving a fan turbine, said housing consisting of two fully closable chambers. The first chamber has an air intake opening and receives the turbine, which delivers the compressed air into the second chamber having the air outlet opening. Both chambers have a foam lining on all chamber walls. The first chamber additionally has a discharge opening, in which the drive motor of the turbine is resiliently mounted.

A disadvantage of this known solution is that the sound-proofing housing requires a large amount of space in a respirator and thus only allows a compact embodiment of the respirator to a limited extent. In addition, this sound-proofing housing requires a high assembly effort.

A respirator is known from U.S. Pat. No. 7,617,823B2, in which the fan is arranged in a receptacle of a shaped part made of a resilient material, which is inserted into a first housing part of the respirator. The shaped part additionally has air-guiding channels. To fix the fan in the first housing part, a further damping insert and a cover element, which covers said damping insert and is screwed to the first housing part, are provided.

A disadvantage of this known solution is that the sound-proofing requires a large amount of space compared to the desired compact dimensions of the respirator, and the assembly of the respirator is very complicated due to the complexity of this solution. Furthermore, the fan and the components thereof are not cooled sufficiently for long periods of use.

It is proposed in U.S. Pat. No. 7,975,688B1 to arrange the fan between two damping elements, which are fixed by means of a cover element on a component, which is arranged in the respirator.

The disadvantage of this known solution is that the assembly of the respirator is very complicated due to the complexity and the soundproofing is insufficient in practice due to the constructional embodiment. With this solution too, the fan and components thereof are only cooled insufficiently.

DE102006034028A1 discloses a sound-proofing housing for a respirator, said housing comprising a first housing part with an intake opening for the entry of air into the housing, said air being drawn in by a fan arranged in the housing, and comprising a second housing part, which comprises a discharge opening for the discharge of the drawn-in air from the housing. A shaped part arranged in the housing is also provided and comprises a flange seal, which comes to rest between the first housing part and the second housing part when the housing is put together and divides the housing into an intake region and a delivery region, and comprises a fan receptacle for holding the fan in the housing, said receptacle protruding from the intake side of the flange seal. Air-guiding devices for guiding the air drawn in by the fan are also provided within the housing in the shaped part.

A disadvantage of this known solution is that the sound-proofing housing requires a large amount of space compared to the desired compact dimensions of the respirator, and assembly of the respirator is also complicated. In this case the cooling of the fan and components thereof is likewise sub-optimal.

The object of the present invention is therefore to create a sound-proofing housing for a respirator that does not have the above-mentioned disadvantages and in particular is of simple design so as to simplify the assembly of the housing. In addition, optimal soundproofing during operation of the fan or the respirator is to be ensured, even in the most confined of spaces.

Advantageous developments are presented in the figures and in the present disclosure.

In accordance with the invention, a support flange, which comprises at least one air passage opening for the air drawn in by the fan as well as contact sides contacting the inner side of a housing part when the housing is put together, is provided in the region of the free end of the fan receptacle, and at least one further air passage opening for the air drawn in by the fan is provided in the fan receptacle, preferably adjacent to the intake side of the flange seal.

The shaped part comprising the fan receptacle can be inserted as a whole into a housing part, until the flange seal contacts the corresponding free edge of the housing part. The support flange distanced from the flange seal comes into contact with the inner sides of the housing part and aligns the shaped part in the desired position within the housing, even as said shaped part is being introduced. It is thus ensured in the simplest manner possible that the fan arranged in the substantially sleeve-shaped fan receptacle is completely decoupled from the housing. The other housing part is then arranged so that the shaped part is securely fixed due to the flange seal fixed between the housing parts.

The air drawn in by the fan passes through the intake opening and into the housing, flows through the air passage opening in the support flange past the fan receptacle, and flows through the further air passage opening in the fan receptacle into the fan. This air is compressed in the fan and is delivered through the discharge opening. A sufficient clearance for the air flowing through the housing is created around the advantageously sleeve-shaped fan receptacle and ensures sufficient and advantageous cooling of the fan and in particular of the drive motor thereof.

The sound-proofing housing according to the invention is characterised by a particularly high ease of assembly with a compact embodiment. At the same time, a long period of use of the fan and therefore of the respirator is ensured.

Seal elements are preferably provided on the contact sides of the support flange and prevent an infiltration of air into the contact regions between the contact sides of the support flange and the corresponding inner sides of the housing. The seal elements are advantageously formed as preferably resilient lip seals. Due to the embodiment and positioning of the at least one air passage opening in the support flange, the flow behaviour and therefore in particular also the efficiency of the cooling effect for the fan can be influenced significantly. The seal elements ensure the desired guidance of air within the housing, even in the event of vibrations produced in any case by the operation of the fan.

An intake-side guide element having at least one air passage opening preferably protrudes in the form of an air-guiding device from the support flange and ensures that the airflow is steered within the housing in an advantageous manner in the intake region of the sound-proofing housing. The intake-side guide element is particularly advanta-

geously arranged in the vicinity of, or directly adjacent to, the air passage opening in the support flange. The size of the cross section of the air passage opening advantageously corresponds approximately to 0.8 times to 1.2 times the size of the air passage opening in the support flange.

At least one support portion for the intake-side guide element is preferably provided and ensures the desired alignment of the intake-side guide element within the housing. The at least one support portion advantageously extends from the intake-side guide element to the support flange, which ensures stable support of the intake-side guide element. In spite of the forces that are effective due to the airflow within the housing, the intake-side guide element itself may have a low material thickness. A reduction in the material requirement for the shaped element has an advantageous effect in particular on the production costs and also the handling of the shaped element. At least two support portions for the intake-side guide element are advantageously provided and are arranged at a distance from one another and ensure that the intake-side guide element is aligned in an even more stable manner. For advantageous support of the intake-side guide element, the support portions are each preferably provided adjacent to the two free side edges, running parallel to one another, of the intake-side guide element.

At least one guide receptacle for receiving a portion of the intake-side guide element is preferably provided in the housing part in which the intake-side guide element comes to rest when the housing is put together. The at least one guide receptacle is advantageously formed in such a way that, as the shaped element is introduced into the corresponding housing part, the free ends of the intake-side guide element are surrounded by the shaped element, at least in some regions. Due to the at least one guide receptacle stabilising the intake-side guide element, the intake-side guide element can have a low material thickness in spite of the forces that are effective due to the airflow within the housing.

At least two mutually opposed guide receptacles are particularly advantageously provided and hold the intake-side guide element at the two free side edges thereof running parallel to one another. In addition, the arrangement of a further guide receptacle, which holds the free edge at the end of the intake-side guide element, at least in some regions, is also advantageous.

In a preferred embodiment, the intake-side guide element is fixed in the housing in the desired alignment by means of at least one guide receptacle and also by means of at least one support portion.

One housing part preferably comprises at least one fastening dome protruding from the free edge of the housing part, and the other housing part preferably comprises at least one fastening dome recess for receiving the at least one fastening dome when the housing is put together, so that, when the two housing parts are put together, they are aligned with one another during the assembly process. If the housing parts are asymmetrical in cross section, the correct alignment of the housing parts relative to one another can be ensured in a simple manner by a corresponding arrangement of the at least one fastening dome and the at least one fastening dome recess. A plurality of fastening domes and a corresponding number of fastening dome recesses are advantageously provided.

A stop for the at least one fastening dome is advantageously provided in the fastening dome recess to ensure a defined spacing between the housing parts when the housing is put together, whereby in particular an undesirably heavy

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compression of the flange seal of the shaped part coming to rest between the housing parts is prevented in a simple manner.

At least one dome through-opening for the passage of the at least one fastening dome is preferably provided in the flange seal, whereby the flange seal and therefore the shaped part are held in the desired alignment relative to the housing parts. The number of dome through-openings in the flange seal advantageously corresponds at least to the number of the fastening domes provided on the corresponding housing part. In this case too, a desired alignment of the shaped part in the housing can be ensured in a simple manner by a corresponding arrangement of the dome through-openings adapted to the geometrical conditions.

The at least one dome through-opening is advantageously peripherally dosed, which reliably prevents an undesired displacement of the flange seal and therefore of the entire shaped part when the sound-proofing housing is put together.

A delivery-side guide element is preferably provided in the form of an air-guiding device on the flange seal and protrudes from the delivery side of the flange seal, which is arranged opposite the intake side of the flange seal, which ensures that the airflow is steered within the housing in an advantageous manner in the delivery region of the sound-proofing housing.

At least one support portion for the delivery-side guide element is advantageously provided and ensures the desired alignment of the delivery-side guide element within the housing. The at least one support portion advantageously extends from the delivery-side guide element to the flange seal, which ensures stable support of the delivery-side guide element. In spite of the forces that are effective due to the airflow in the housing, the delivery-side guide element itself can have a low material thickness. As has already been explained, a reduction of the material requirement for the shaped element in particular has an advantageous effect on the production costs and also the handling of the shaped element. A plurality of support portions for the delivery-side guide element are advantageously provided and are arranged at a distance from one another and ensure that the delivery-side guide element is aligned in a more stable manner. For advantageous support of the delivery-side guide element, the support portions are preferably each provided adjacent to the two free side edges, running parallel to one another, of the delivery-side guide element.

At least one cable through-opening for the passage of cables for the wiring of the fan is preferably provided in the flange seal, which enables a simple seal against false air and against an air short circuit and simultaneously enables simple wiring of the fan.

The at least one cable through-opening is advantageously provided in an encompassing portion, which protrudes from the flange seal, which enables simple constructional assembly that does not make it difficult to put the housing together.

A housing recess for receiving at least one region of the encompassing portion is further advantageously provided in the housing part in which the encompassing portion comes to rest when the housing is put together, which enables accurate, fault-free constructional assembly of the housing and at the same time creates sufficient clearance for the wiring.

At least one cable through-opening for the passage of cables for the wiring of the fan is preferably provided in the support flange and/or in the intake-side guide element so that the corresponding cables for the fan are securely guided and

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held within the housing. Damage to the cables is thus prevented, even in the event of strong airflows within the housing.

At least one air passage opening, through which the air compressed by the fan can flow from the intake region into the delivery region, is preferably provided in the flange seal. The at least one aft passage opening is advantageously spaced from the edge of the flange seal so that it is surrounded peripherally by material of the flange seal. The desired seal in the region of the flange seal is maintained, even under high forces produced for example by the airflow.

A line portion (for example a "swan-neck") is advantageously provided and connects the air passage opening to a delivery-side outlet (for example the outlet connecting piece) of the fan, whereby an air short circuit between drawn-in air and compressed air is prevented.

A support element for supporting the flange seal is preferably provided and ensures the desired alignment of the flange seal within the housing. In spite of the forces that are effective due to the airflow, the flange seal itself may have a low material thickness. As has already been explained above, a reduction of the material requirement for the shaped element in particular has an advantageous effect on the production costs and also the handling of the shaped element. The support element is advantageously fabricated from a rigid material, for example from sheet metal or a suitable plastics material. The dimensions are advantageously selected in such a way that, when the sound-proofing housing is put together, said support element comes to rest completely within the corresponding housing part. The support element further advantageously comprises contact portions, which protrude and extend from the plane spanned by the flange seal and can be used to support the inner wall of the corresponding housing part. Displacement of the shaped part in this region is thus limited to the resultant play predetermined by the construction. The support element is advantageously arranged on the intake side of the flange seal, which enables simple assembly of the shaped part and therefore of the housing as a whole.

The shaped part is preferably formed at least in two parts, wherein a first shaped part portion comprises at least the flange seal and the at least one further shaped part portion comprises at least the fan receptacle, wherein a fixing device for connecting the first shaped part portion to the at least one further shaped part portion is provided. A shaped part formed in this way can be fabricated in a simple manner. In particular if the shaped part is a part that is injection-moulded or foamed in a mould, the corresponding mould can thus be designed more simply than in the case of a one-pieced shaped part. The mould can thus be produced more favourably, and demoulding of the produced portion of the shaped part is considerably simplified.

The fixing device preferably comprises at least one fixing cam provided on one of the shaped part portions and at least one fixing cam receptacle provided on the other shaped part portion, the at least one fixing cam being fixable in said fixing cam receptacle, which enables a simple connection of the at least two shaped part portions.

For example, a groove for engagement from behind distanced from the free end of the at least one fixing cam is provided on said at least one fixing cam and the at least one fixing cam receptacle has inner dimensions matched to the dimensions of the groove for engagement from behind or smaller than the corresponding dimensions of the free end of the at least one fixing cam. When joining the shaped part portions, the corresponding part of the fixing cam receptacle

snaps into the groove for engagement from behind, whereby the shaped part portions are securely interconnected.

The fixing device is advantageously formed in such a way that, when the shaped part portions have been joined, they are spaced from one another, at least in some regions, so that an intake gap for the air drawn in by the fan remains in the form of at least one further air passage opening. The desired air guidance can be ensured with little effort by means of this embodiment, without a complicated embodiment of the mould for producing the corresponding shaped part portion.

Further advantages, features and details of the invention will emerge from the following description, in which exemplary versions are described with reference to the drawings.

The list of reference signs forms part of the disclosure. The drawings will be described coherently and comprehensively. Like reference signs denote like components.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 shows a perspective illustration of a respirator,

FIG. 2 shows a perspective illustration of a sound-proofing housing according to the invention for the respirator,

FIG. 3 shows a longitudinal section through the sound-proofing housing,

FIG. 4 shows a perspective illustration of a first housing part of the sound-proofing housing,

FIG. 5 shows another perspective illustration of the first housing part according to FIG. 4,

FIG. 6 shows a perspective illustration of a second housing part of the sound-proofing housing,

FIG. 7 shows another perspective illustration of the second housing part according to FIG. 6,

FIG. 8 shows a perspective illustration of a shaped part of the sound-proofing housing,

FIG. 9 shows another perspective illustration of the shaped part according to FIG. 8,

FIG. 10 shows a perspective illustration of a first portion of the shaped part according to FIGS. 8 and 9,

FIG. 11 shows another perspective illustration of the first shaped part portion according to FIG. 10,

FIG. 12 shows a perspective illustration of a second portion of the shaped part according to FIGS. 8 and 9, and

FIG. 13 shows another perspective illustration of the second shaped part portion according to FIG. 12.

A respirator 21, as is shown in FIG. 1, is used to assist a patient's breathing or to take on fully a patient's respiratory function. Parameters matched to the patient can be input via an input unit, for example a touchscreen 22. A processor/control unit (not illustrated here), which ensures the desired type of respiration for the patient by controlling accordingly a fan provided in the housing 23, is located within the housing 23. A connecting piece 24, to which a respiration tube (not illustrated here) for guiding air from the respirator 21 to a respiratory mask for patient respiration, is provided on the housing 23. The market for respirators 21 requires a compact design and low acoustic emission, in particular of the fan provided in the respirator 21.

A sound-proofing housing 31 according to the invention for a fan is illustrated in FIGS. 2 to 13, said housing being of compact construction and demonstrating advantageous soundproofing alongside simple production and ease of assembly of the housing 31. Such a housing 31 is advantageously arranged in a respirator 21, as is shown in FIG. 1, to generate the desired airflow for patient respiration.

FIG. 2 shows the sound-proofing housing 31 as a whole when put together. The housing 31 comprises a first cup-shaped housing part 41, a second cup-shaped housing part 51, and a shaped part 61 that is arranged in the housing 31

and of which substantially only the flange seal 63 arranged between the two housing parts 41 and 51 can be seen in FIG. 2.

The housing parts 41 and 51 are interconnected in the region of four corners by means of connecting elements 32, such as screws and nuts. For easy accessibility of the connecting elements 32 and therefore for simple assembly of the housing 31, the first housing part 41 comprises correspondingly formed depressions 42 along its longitudinal extension, and the second housing part 51 comprises correspondingly formed depressions 52 along its longitudinal extension.

It can be seen from FIG. 3 that, besides the shaped part 61, foam inserts 71 and 72 are provided in the region of the base portion 43 of the first housing part 41 and, additionally to the shaped part 61, in particular damp noise in the housing 31 produced by the airflow. It can also be seen here that the shaped part 61 and in particular the flange seal 63 thereof divides the interior of the housing 31 into an intake region 33 and into a delivery region 34.

The features of the first cup-shaped housing part 41 will be described hereinafter with reference to FIGS. 4 and 5. An intake opening 44 for the entry of air into the housing 31 is provided in the base portion 43 of the first housing part 41. The intake opening 44 has a cross section that tapers from the outer side of the base portion 43. This cross section tapers to an inner diameter of a substantially cylindrical sleeve portion 45, which protrudes from the base portion 43 into the first housing part 41. The tapering region of the intake opening 44 runs in a rounded manner. This embodiment of the intake opening 44 ensures an advantageous airflow into the housing 31 and also ensures that the acoustic emissions when the air flows into the housing 31 are considerably reduced.

Fastening domes 47 each protruding from the free edge 46 are provided in the corner regions of the free edge 46 of the first housing part 41. Through openings 48 for at least part of the connecting element 32 are provided in each fastening dome 47 and each fully penetrate the corresponding fastening dome 47.

A housing recess 49, of which the function will be described hereinafter in conjunction with the shaped part 61, is also provided in a portion of the free edge 46 of the first housing part 41.

Furthermore, two guide receptacles 76 (FIG. 3), of which the function will likewise be described hereinafter in conjunction with the shaped part 61, are provided inside the first housing part 41. Each guide receptacle 76 is formed by at least one of the plurality of ribs 77 and a retaining tab 78. Each of the ribs 77 protrude perpendicularly from the corresponding side wall 50 of the first housing part 41 and extend, starting from the base portion 43, over regions in the direction of the free edge 46 of the first housing part 41. As can be seen in FIG. 3, the individual ribs 77 may extend over different lengths. The retaining tabs 78 are each arranged substantially at the same distance from the inner side 50 of the first housing part 41 and run, starting from the base portion 43, in the direction of the free edge 46 of the first housing part 41. The free ends of the retaining tabs 78 each face one another. The length of the extension of the retaining tabs 78 is advantageously greater than the corresponding extension of the ribs 77. Furthermore, the ribs 77 and/or the retaining tabs 78 do not necessarily have to be connected to the corresponding inner face of the base portion 43. All of these ribs and/or retaining tabs, or at least individual ones thereof, may readily be spaced from the corresponding inner face of the base portion 43.

The features of the second cup-shaped housing part **51** will be described hereinafter with reference to FIGS. **6** and **7**. A discharge opening **54** for the discharge of the drawn-in air from the housing **31** is provided in the base portion **53** of the second housing part **51**.

A collar **55** protrudes around the discharge opening **54** from the outer side of the base portion **53**. The outer diameter of the collar **55** is advantageously selected in such a way that, with an arrangement of the housing **31** in the respirator **21**, this collar **55** comes to rest in the connecting piece **24** of the respirator **21**. Struts running radially from the centre of the discharge opening **54** are also provided in said discharge opening and are used as a support for a membrane **116** (FIG. **3**), such that a check valve is formed at the discharge opening **54**.

A relief opening **56**, in which a pressure relief valve **57** for example is arranged, is further provided in the base portion **53** of the second housing part **51**. In the event of an excessive pressure within the housing **31**, this pressure can escape through said relief opening **56**. An undesirably high overpressure can build up within the housing **31** for example if no air is drawn by the patient, but the fan **35** continues to compress drawn-in air. To improve the stability of the second housing part **51**, a reinforcing rib **59** running from one side wall to the opposite side wall of the second housing part **51** is also provided on the inner side of the base portion **53**, wherein the discharge opening **54** is arranged on one side of the reinforcing rib **59** and the discharge opening **56** is arranged on the other side of the reinforcing rib **59**.

Fastening dome recesses **81** for receiving the fastening domes **47** of the first housing part **41** are provided in the corner regions of the free edge **58** of the second housing part **51**. The fastening dome recesses **81** are each penetrated by through-openings **80** for at least part of the connecting element **32**. The inner diameter of a fastening dome recess **81** is greater than the inner diameter of the corresponding through-opening **80**, so that a stop for the fastening dome **47** received in said fastening dome recess **81** is formed in the fastening dome recess **81** to ensure a defined spacing between the free edges **48** and **58** of the housing parts **41** and **51** when the housing **31** is put together.

FIGS. **8** and **9** show the shaped part **61** as a whole. The details of the shaped part **61** and the individual functions thereof will be described hereinafter with reference to FIGS. **10** to **13**.

The shaped part **61** consists of a first shaped part portion **62** and a second shaped part portion **82**, which are interconnected via a fixing device **92**. The shaped part **61** and therefore the shaped part portions **62** and **82** are fabricated for example from a plastics material, advantageously from silicone, NBR, FKN or a suitable elastomer. In this case the two shaped part portions **62** and **82** do not necessarily have to be fabricated from the same material, although this is generally advantageous.

The first shaped part portion **62** (in particular see FIGS. **12** and **13**) comprises the flange seal **63**. A peripherally dosed dome through-opening **64** for the passage of a respective fastening dome **47** of the first housing part **41** is provided in each corner region of the flange seal **63**.

Fixing cam receptacles **93**, which form a part of the fixing device **92**, are provided on the intake side **65** of the flange seal **63**. Retaining cams **97**, which are used to hold a support element **96** for supporting the flange seal **63**, also protrude from the intake side **65** of the flange seal **63** (FIG. **8**). The support element **96** fabricated from a sheet metal comprises, at its side edges, deflected portions **98**, which, when the support element **96** is fixed, protrude in a manner facing

away from the intake side **65**. The size of the support element **96** is selected in such a way that, when the housing **31** is put together, the support element **96** comes to rest via its deflected portions **98** within the first housing part **41**.

A delivery-side guide element **67**, which runs parallel to the side edges of the flange seal **63** and of which each of the ends are spaced from said side edges, protrudes in the form of an air-guiding device from the delivery side **66** of the flange seal **63**, which is arranged opposite the intake side **65** of the flange seal **63**. When the housing **31** is put together, the free edge of the delivery-side guide element **67** facing the base portion **53** of the second housing part **51** and the free edge of the reinforcing rib **59** in the second housing part **51** are arranged facing one another so that a narrowed air passage region is created therebetween. A plurality of support portions **68** for the delivery-side guide element **67** each spaced from one another and from the ends of the delivery-side guide element **67** are provided and extend from the delivery-side guide element **67** to the flange seal **63**.

With reference to FIG. **13**, an air passage opening **69** spaced from the side edges of the flange seal **63** is provided after the delivery-side guide element **67** in the flange seal **63**, which connects the intake region **33** of the housing **31** to the delivery region **34** thereof, and therefore is not visible in this figure. A guide portion **70** with a curved free end is provided on the intake side **65** of the flange seal **63** and connects the air passage opening **69** to an outlet **36**, advantageously formed as a connecting piece, of the housing **35** and thus prevents an air short circuit between the intake region **33** and the delivery region **34**.

An encompassing portion **101** and **102** is provided on each side edge of the flange seal **63** and extends along the flange seal **63** in a manner distanced from the ends of the corresponding side edge of the flange seal and substantially perpendicular to the plane spanned by the flange seal **63** and over the intake side **65** and the delivery side **66** of the flange seal **63**. The encompassing portions **101** and **102** come to rest outside the two housing parts **41** and **51** when the housing **31** is assembled (for example see FIG. **2**).

A guide portion **103**, which, when the housing **31** is put together, comes to rest within the first housing part **41**, is provided on the inner side of the encompassing portion **102** at a distance therefrom. A cable through-opening **104** for the passage of cables **37** for the wiring of the fan **35** is provided in the encompassing portion **102**. The cable through-opening **104** is formed in such a way that the edges thereof bear tightly against the cable **37** guided therethrough and prevent an infiltration of moisture and/or dirt into the housing **31**. The guide portion **103** comprises a guide through-opening **105** for the cable **37**.

When the shaped part **61** is put together with the first housing part **41**, at least one region of the encompassing portion **102** and therefore also the cable **37** in the housing recess **49** guided through the cable through-opening **104** comes to rest on the free edge **46** of the first housing part **41** so that said cable **37** is not damaged during the assembly process and simple assembly of the housing **31** is also ensured.

The second shaped part portion **82** comprises a substantially cup-shaped fan receptacle **83** for holding the fan **35** in the housing **31**. The fan receptacle **83** comprises a base portion **84** having an air passage opening **85**, which, when fixed on the first shaped part portion **62**, faces the intake side **65** of the flange seal **63**. At the free end remote from the intake side **65** of the flange seal **63**, the fan receptacle **83** comprises a support flange **86** surrounding said fan receptacle, at least in some regions. The support flange **86**

comprises three contact sides contacting the inner side of the first housing part **41** when the housing **31** is put together. Lip seals **87** are provided as seal elements on these contact sides of the support flange **86**. Recesses **88** are formed in each of the corners of the support flange **86** and ensure tight contact against the accordingly rounded inner sides of the first housing part **41** when the housing **31** is put together. The lip seals **87** advantageously also extend along the recesses **88**. A cable through-opening **89** for the passage of cables **37** for the wiring of the fan **35** is also provided in the support flange **86**.

A plurality of fixing cams **94** protrude in the form of a further part of the fixing device **92** from the base portion **84**, the free ends of said fixing cams being fixable in the fixing cam receptacles **93** in the flange seal **63** to connect the first shaped part portion **62** to the second shaped part portion **82**. This fixing process is carried out for example via a clip device or by means of a suitable adhesive.

The fixing device **92** or the fixing cams **94** is/are formed in such a way that, when the two shaped part portions **62** and **82** are joined, they are distanced from one another. An intake gap **95** thus remains adjacent to the intake side **65** of the flange seal **63** as a further air passage opening for the air drawn in by the fan **35**.

In the case of the side edge **90** of the support flange **86**, which, when the housing **31** is put together, does not contact one of the inner sides of the first housing part **41**, an intake-side guide element **111** having an air passage opening **112** protrudes from the support flange **86**, more specifically from the side thereof remote from the intake side **65** of the flange seal **63**. The intake-side guide element **111** has two side edges **113** running parallel to one another and a free edge **114**. A support portion **115** for the intake-side guide element **111** is provided at a distance from the side edges **113** and extends in each case from the intake-side guide element **111** to the support flange **86**. The free end of the support portions **115** is in each case distanced from the free edge **114**.

A possible assembly of the housing **31** will be described hereinafter, which is to be considered as particularly advantageous. The sequence of the individual assembly steps can easily be varied according to the marginal conditions present or the adapted variants of the housing **31**.

The two shaped part portions **62** and **82** are first connected to form the shaped part **61**. The fan **35** is then inserted into the fan receptacle **83**. The fan **35** preferably has an intake opening, which, in the inserted state, faces the air passage opening **85** in the base portion **84** of the fan receptacle **83** and is advantageously directly adjacent thereto. As has already been mentioned, the free end of the line portion **70** is connected to the outlet **36** of the fan **35**. The fan **35** is then advantageously also wired by means of the cables **37**.

The foam inserts **71** and **72** are then inserted in the first housing part **41**. The shaped part **61** is then introduced into the first housing part **41** with the intake-side guide element **111** arranged to the fore. In doing so, the shaped part **61** is aligned in such a way that, as it is introduced, the free end region of the intake-side guide element **111** comes to rest in the guide receptacle **76** in the first housing part **41**.

The shaped part **61** is inserted into the first housing part **41** until the flange seal **63** contacts the free edge **46** of the first housing part. In doing so, the dome through-openings **64** are penetrated by the fastening domes **47** at the free edge **46** of the first housing part **41** and the encompassing portion **102** on the flange seal **63** comes to rest, in some regions, in the housing recess **49** in the free edge **46** of the first housing part **41**. The remaining peripheral portions **101** of the flange

seal **63** in this position encompass the other sides of the free edge **46** of the first housing part **41**.

The second housing part **51** is then arranged, wherein the free ends of the fastening domes **47** come to rest in the fastening dome recesses **81**. The two housing portions **41** and **51** are fixedly interconnected by means of the connecting elements **32**. Due to the contact created in the fastening dome recesses **81**, it is ensured that the connection between the two housing parts **41** and **51** is sealed by the flange seal **63**, but that the flange seal **63** itself is not compressed excessively during the assembly process.

The sound-proofing housing **31** is then ready for installation in a respirator **21**.

If the fan **35** is started, air is drawn in thereby through the intake opening **44** into the intake region **33**. The drawn-in air flows through the air passage opening **112**, past the second shaped part portion **82**, and through the intake gap **95** through the air passage opening **85** in the base portion **84** of the device receptacle **83** and into the fan **35**. The drawn-in air flows over the device receptacle **83** on the outer side in the region between the flange seal **63** and the support flange **86** before it flows through the intake gap **95** and likewise infiltrates the fan **35** through the air passage opening **85** in the base portion **84** of the device receptacle **83**. Before the drawn-in air flows through the air passage opening **112**, it flows over the part of the fan that protrudes from the device receptacle **83** (generally a part of the motor of the fan) and thus continuously cools said part. This embodiment of the shaped part **61** advantageously ensures sufficient cooling of the fan **35** and in particular of the motor thereof.

The drawn-in air is compressed in the fan **35** and is guided through the outlet **36** through the line portion **70** and the air passage opening **69** in the flange seal **63** into the delivery region **34** of the housing **31**. The compressed air exits the housing **31** through the discharge opening **54** in the base portion **53** of the second housing part **51**.

The intake opening **44** and the discharge opening **54** are offset with reference to a central longitudinal axis of the housing **31** and are not arranged over the same axis running parallel to the inner sides of the housing **31**.

Due to the guidance of the airflow by means of the guide elements **61** and **111** as well as the arrangement in particular of the air passage openings **69**, **85** and **112** as well as the embodiment of the shaped part **61** per se, acoustic emissions occurring during operation of the fan **35** are considerably reduced compared to known solutions. At the same time, the fan is sufficiently cooled and is therefore suitable for a long period of use, which likewise results in a long period of use of the respirator **21**.

List of reference labels

21	respirator
22	touch screen
23	housing
24	connecting piece
31	housing
32	connecting element
33	intake region
34	delivery region
35	fan
36	outlet of 35
37	cable
41	first housing part
42	indentation of 41
43	base portion of 41
44	intake opening
45	sleeve portion at 44

-continued

List of reference labels	
46	free edge of 41
47	fastening dome
48	through-opening in 47
49	housing recess
50	side wall of 41
51	second housing part
52	indentation of 51
53	base portion of 51
54	discharge opening
55	collar at 54
56	relief opening
57	pressure relief valve
58	free edge of 51
59	reinforcing rib
61	shaped part
62	first shaped part portion
63	flange seal
64	dome through-opening
65	intake side of 63
66	delivery side of 63
67	delivery-side guide element
68	support portion for 67
69	air passage opening
70	line portion
71	foam insert
72	foam insert
76	guide receptacle
77	rib
78	retaining tab
80	through-opening in 81
81	fastening dome recess
82	second shaped part portion
83	fan receptacle
84	base portion of 83
85	air passage opening
86	support flange
87	lip seal
88	recess of 86
89	cable through-opening in 86
90	side edge of 86
92	fixing device
93	fixing cam receptacles
94	fixing cams
95	intake gap
96	support element
97	retaining cam
98	deflected portion of 96
101	encompassing portion
102	encompassing portion
103	guide portion
104	cable through-opening in 102
105	guide through-opening
111	intake-side guide element
112	air passage opening in 111
113	side edge of 111
114	free edge of 111
115	support portion
116	membrane

What is claimed is:

1. A sound-proofing housing for a respirator comprising:
a first housing part;
said first housing part having an intake opening permitting
entry of air into said housing;
a fan arranged in said housing to draw in air;
a second housing part;
said second housing part having a discharge opening;
a shaped part arranged in said housing, said shaped part
forming a flange seal resting between said first and
second housing parts;
an intake region in said housing;
a delivery region in said housing;
said shaped part dividing said housing into said intake and
delivery regions;

said flange seal having an intake side facing said intake
region;
a fan receptacle configured to hold said fan, said fan
receptacle protruding from said intake side of said
flange seal, said fan receptacle having a free end;
air guides configured to guide air drawn at least through
said flange seal into said delivery region of said hous-
ing by said fan;
a support flange, said support flange having at least one air
passage opening, said support flange having contact
sides contacting inside said housing, said support
flange being provided in a region of the free end of said
fan receptacle; and,
at least one further air passage opening for air drawn in by
said fan, said at least one further air passage opening
being provided in said fan receptacle adjacent to said
flange seal intake side.

2. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed
in claim 1 further comprising:
lip seals provided on said support flange contact sides.

3. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed
in claim 1 further comprising:
an intake-side guide element protruding from said support
flange, said intake-side guide element having at least
one respective air passage opening.

4. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed
in claim 3 further comprising:
said intake-side guide element is providing a support
portion extending between said intake-side air guide
and said support flange.

5. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed
in claim 3 further comprising:
a guide receptacle receiving at least a portion of said
intake-side guide element, said guide receptacle resting
in the same housing part as said intake-side guide
element.

6. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed
in claim 1 further comprising:
a respective one of said first and second housing parts
includes at least one fastening dome, said at least one
fastening dome protruding from a free edge of said
respective one of said first and second housing parts;
the respective other one of said first and second housing
parts including at least one fastening dome recess
configured to receive said at least one fastening dome;
and,
a stop for said at least one fastening dome, said stop being
provided in said fastening dome recess to define spac-
ing between assembled first and second housing parts.

7. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed
in claim 6 further comprising:
a dome through-opening in said flange seal, said dome
through-opening being peripherally closed.

8. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed
in claim 1 further comprising:
a delivery-side guide element, said delivery-side guide
element protruding from a delivery side of said flange
seal; and,
at least one support portion for said delivery-side guide
element extending from said delivery-side guide ele-
ment to said flange seal.

9. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed
in claim 1 further comprising:
at least one cable through-opening provided in said flange
seal, said at least one cable through-opening being
provided in an encompassing portion protruding from
said flange seal;

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a housing recess configured to receive at least a portion of said encompassing portion, said housing recess being provided in the same housing part as said encompassing portion of said flange seal.

10. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

at least one cable through-opening provided in said support flange.

11. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed in claim 3 further comprising:

at least one cable through-opening provided in said intake-side guide element.

12. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

an air passage opening provided in said flange seal; and, a guide portion, said guide portion connecting said air passage opening of said flange seal to a delivery-side outlet of said fan.

13. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

a flange seal support arranged on said intake side of said flange seal.

14. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

said shaped part including a first portion that includes said flange seal, said shaped part including a second portion that includes said fan receptacle; and, a fixing device configured to connect said shaped part first portion to said shaped part second portion.

15. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed in claim 14 further comprising:

said fixing device including at least one fixing cam provided on said second portions of said shaped part, said fixing device also including at least one fixing cam receptacle provided on said first portions of said shaped part; and,

said fixing device providing at least some spacing between said first and second portions in assembly, an intake gap being formed by said spacing, said intake gap having the form of at least one additional air passage opening.

16. A sound-proofing housing for a respirator comprising:

a first housing part;

said first housing part having an intake opening permitting entry of air into said housing;

a fan arranged in said housing to draw in air;

a second housing part;

said second housing part having a discharge opening;

a shaped part arranged in said housing, said shaped part forming a flange seal resting between said first and second housing parts;

an intake region in said housing;

a delivery region in said housing;

said shaped part dividing said housing into said intake and delivery regions;

said flange seal having an intake side facing said intake region;

a fan receptacle configured to hold said fan, said fan receptacle protruding from said intake side of said flange seal, said fan receptacle having a free end;

air guides configured to guide air drawn at least through said flange seal into said delivery region of said housing by said fan;

a support flange, said support flange having at least one air passage opening, said support flange having contact

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sides contacting inside said housing, said support flange being provided in a region of the free end of said fan receptacle;

at least one further air passage opening for air drawn in by said fan, said at least one further air passage opening being provided in said fan receptacle adjacent to said flange seal intake side; and, an intake-side guide element protruding from said support flange.

17. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed in claim 16 further comprising:

said intake-side guide element is providing a support portion extending between said intake-side guide element and said support flange.

18. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed in claim 16 further comprising:

a guide receptacle receiving at least a portion of said intake-side guide element, said guide receptacle resting in the same housing part as said intake-side guide element.

19. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed in claim 16 further comprising:

a delivery-side guide element, said delivery-side guide element protruding from a delivery side of said flange seal; and,

at least one support portion for said delivery-side guide element extending from said delivery-side guide element to said flange seal.

20. The sound-proofing housing for a respirator as claimed in claim 16 further comprising:

said shaped part including a first portion that includes said flange seal, said shaped part including a second portion that includes said fan receptacle; and,

a fixing device configured to connect said shaped part first portion to said shaped part second portion.

21. A sound-proofing housing for a respirator, said sound-proofing housing comprising:

a first housing part having an intake opening for entry of air into said sound-proofing housing, air being drawn in by a fan arranged in said sound-proofing housing;

a second housing part having a discharge opening for discharge of drawn-in air from said sound-proofing housing;

a shaped part arranged in said sound-proofing housing, said shaped part forming a flange seal, said flange seal is sandwiched between said first housing part and said second housing part, said shaped part dividing said sound-proofing housing into an intake region and a delivery region;

a fan receptacle for holding said fan in said sound-proofing housing, said fan receptacle protruding from an intake side of said flange seal facing said intake region, said fan receptacle including an air passage opening for air drawn by said fan, said air passage opening being disposed adjacent to said intake side of said flange seal;

a support flange provided in a region of a free end of said fan receptacle, said support flange including contact sides in contact with an inner side of said first housing part and a non-contact side not in contact with said inner side of said first housing part when the housing is put together; and

an intake-side guide element including a second air passage opening for air drawn in by said fan, said intake-side guide element protruding from a side of said support flange, said side is remote from said intake side

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of said flange seal, said intake-side guide element is adjacent to said non-contact side of said support flange, wherein air drawn by said fan entering through said intake opening passes through said air passage opening of said intake-side guide element, then between said non-contact side of said support flange and said first housing part, and then through said air passage opening of said fan receptacle.

22. The sound-proofing housing according to claim 21, further comprising seal elements on said contact sides of said support flange.

23. The sound-proofing housing according to claim 21, further comprising at least one support portion for said intake-side guide element, said at least one support portion extending from said intake-side guide element to said support flange.

24. The sound-proofing housing according to claim 21, further comprising at least one guide receptacle for receiving a portion of said intake-side guide element in said first housing part.

25. The sound-proofing housing according to claim 21, wherein said first housing part including at least one fastening dome, said at least one fastening dome protruding from a free edge of said first housing part, and said second housing part including at least one fastening dome recess for receiving said at least one fastening dome, said fastening dome recess having a stop for said at least one fastening dome to ensure a defined spacing between housing parts when said sound-proofing housing is put together.

26. The sound-proofing housing according to claim 25, further including at least one dome through-opening in said flange seal for passage of said at least one fastening dome, said at least one dome through-opening being peripherally closed.

27. The sound-proofing housing according to claim 21, further comprising

a delivery-side guide element in a form of a further air-guiding device on said flange seal, said delivery-side guide element protruding from a delivery side of said flange seal, which is arranged opposite said intake side of said flange seal, and

at least one support portion for said delivery-side guide element, said at least one support portion for said delivery-side guide element extending from said delivery-side guide element to said flange seal.

28. The sound-proofing housing according to claim 21, further comprising:

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at least one cable through-opening in said flange seal for passage of cables to wire said fan, said at least one cable through-opening being provided in an encompassing portion, which protrudes from said flange seal, and

a housing recess for receiving at least a region of said encompassing portion in said first housing part in which said encompassing portion comes to rest when the sound-proofing housing is put together.

29. The sound-proofing housing according to claim 21, further comprising at least one cable through-opening in said support flange for passage of cables to wire said fan.

30. The sound-proofing housing according to claim 21, further comprising at least one cable through-opening for passage of cables to wire said fan in said support flange and/or in said intake-side guide element.

31. The sound-proofing housing according to claim 21, further comprising:

at least one air passage opening in said flange seal, said at least one air passage opening is spaced from an edge of said flange seal, and

a guide portion, which connects said at least one air passage opening to a delivery-side outlet of said fan.

32. The sound-proofing housing according to claim 21, further comprising a support element to support said flange seal, said support element is located on said intake side of said flange seal.

33. The sound-proofing housing according to claim 21, wherein said shaped part including at least two parts:

a first shaped part portion having at least said flange seal, and

at least one further shaped part portion having at least said fan receptacle, and a fixing device for connecting said first shaped part portion to said at least one further shaped part portion.

34. The sound-proofing housing according to claim 33, wherein said fixing device including:

at least one fixing cam provided on one of said shaped part portions, and

at least one fixing cam receptacle provided on another of said shaped part portion, said at least one fixing cam being fixable in said at least one fixing cam receptacle, said fixing device being formed in such way that, when said shaped part portions have been joined, they are spaced from each other, at least in a one area, so that an intake gap for air drawn in by said fan is maintained in a form of at least one further air passage opening.

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